

Lemont High School
800 ...reet
Lemont, IL 604

TOM-TOM

Winter Wonderland

by Andrea Earnest
News Editor

LHS Band Holiday Concerts

The LHS band is prepping for their concerts on Dec. 11 and Dec. 13. Holiday music will be the focus of the show, so stop by to get in the holiday spirit. Flute player, Kristina Moravecek said, "This year's holiday concert music is very enjoyable to play and listen to. The band is playing a couple of selections chosen by Mr. Doherty and the usual spirited holiday tunes."

The concert band, directed by Matt Doherty, will be showcased on Friday, Dec. 11, at 7PM. The Freshman/Sophomore choir will also be performing. The song choices for the concert band include; Thomas Doss's

"Dona Nobis Pacem," Sally Albrecht's "Christmas Here We Come" and "Our Winter Wonderland."

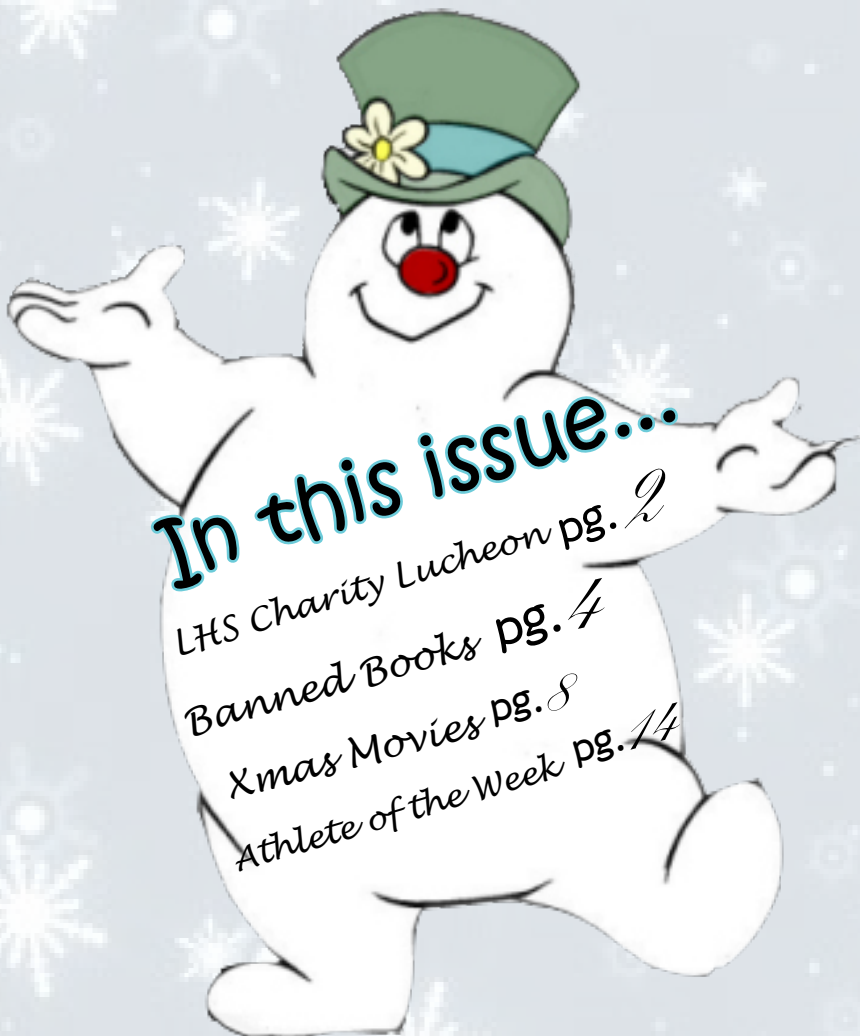
At 3PM on Sunday, Dec. 13, the symphonic band, directed by Terry Redford will play. The Junior/Senior choir will also be singing.

The symphonic band members will be performing Sergei Rachmaninoff's arrangement of "Variations on a Theme of Paganini," James Curnow's "Where Never Lark Nor Eagle Flew," and Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's "Selections from the Nutcracker Suite."

The two bands have been preparing for the concerts for about a month, and hope to sway the audience into a holiday mood. Both concerts will be held in the PAC and are open to everyone.

Clarinetist, Abbie Korte, said, "Come to the concert if you want to be put in the holiday spirit. We're playing some good music to give you some holiday cheer."

The concert is free of charge for all who attend. However, attendees are encouraged to bring a canned good to be donated to the local food pantry.





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Winter Wonderland news

LHS

by Courtney Miklos
News writer

November Board Review

Lemont High School's Board of Education met on Monday, Nov. 9 to discuss achievements and recent happenings within LHS. The discussions started with student of the month and led to Lemont's curriculum and budget funds.

Dr. Sandra Doeber, Superintendent informed the board of numerous events and meetings she went to which included a proposal from the Mathematics Department Chair, meetings with members of the United States Department of Education, and she reported that Dr. Trengrove recently met with the principal of Old Quarry.

A new school text book was also discussed by board members. They viewed a new world Literature book for the English and Foreign Language Department while Jeana Parry gave a brief overview for new sophomore curriculum.

Mrs. Parry said, "Our first priority for the sophomore curriculum was to create a common bond between the world cultures. The most exciting change to the curriculum was the addition of new literature and modern novels: *A Long Way Gone*, *Bound*, *Persepolis*, *House on Mango Street*, and *Latin American Folktales*."

Also, Assistant Principal of extracurricular activities, John Young, recognized the Varsity Boys Golf team who earned 5th place finish at the IHSA State Finals and Jessica Urban, individual state qualifier for LHS' Tennis team.

Principal Trengrove gave PSAT placements where LHS placed 19th in the Chicago land area.

In addition to testing, the ACT was discussed. LHS will offer a new ACT series to prepare

LHS *Charity Luncheon*

by Kristen Peterson
News writer

On Tuesday, Dec. 15, LHS is hosting a faculty luncheon in hopes to raise money for feeding American families in need.

During all lunch periods, teachers can pay \$15 and choose from a variety of food, including chicken parmesan, salad and dessert. "Food Prep 1 and Culinary Arts students will be preparing, cooking, and serving the meal," says host, Jenna Stevenson, "Interior Design students made the menu/invitation and will be decorating the dining room."

Last fall, a similar luncheon was held at LHS to help benefit the charity "Eat So They Can", which helps fight child poverty in Africa. "Mrs. Nollinger and I thought it sounded like a good cause and a great idea to showcase our facilities and culinary skills of our students," says Stevenson. The fundraiser was a huge success, so the idea came about to have an annual charity luncheon.

Foods teacher, Kathy Nollinger, also hosting, says, "Several years ago the Culinary Arts classes did luncheons as a part of the curriculum. We decided to start the original luncheon concept again and combine it with fundraising."

If teachers can't make the lunch but would still like to help the cause, donations will be accepted. All money collected will be donated to the charity "Feeding America".

students for the exam. Data analyst, Kathy Brockett reported, "LHS students are achieving at the highest levels...[on] ACT exams since they became state mandates for all juniors in 2001."

Other important issues discussed were an addition of AP courses, highlights from LHS extracurricular activities, and new curriculum.



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Winter Wonderland editorials

Are all banned books really that bad?

by Kelly Lyons
Editorial writer

As an avid reader, it pains me to see any part of literature shut away into the world of banned books. With inappropriate TV shows and violent video games tainting children's minds everywhere, it's hard for me to see why characters like Harry Potter are seen as threats.

For many years, the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling has been an absolute sensation as well as a controversy. Somehow, many people don't see the world of witchcraft and wizardry as just mere fun.

Since being deemed the most controversially challenged book in 1999, there have been 26 attempts in 16 different states to have the books removed from the shelves of the U.S.

But why? I've been a fan since I was just eight years old, and I'm pretty sure I was never traumatized by reading the series.

LHS student Corey Turner, a sophomore, thinks that, "Every book has taught people [something] or changed part of society, so why would you forbid readers the chance to learn?"

Berit Kjos, a Christian author, believes that Potter promotes an "earth-centered spirituality," which is similar to little-known but spreading witch religions in the U.S today. Kjos said to educationworld.com, "It makes me very uncomfortable when children are immersed in topics that make witchcraft very exciting. It can be very confusing for them."

I really don't see why the books are threatening. They don't directly allude to any sort of



Photo courtesy of Google

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Winter Wonderland editorials



Photo courtesy of Google

banned; it's thriving.

Ben Franklin once said, "If all printers were determined not to print anything until they were sure it would offend nobody, there would be very little printed."

When the media is full of so many negative messages, it doesn't make sense to me that a simple book series such as Harry Potter can be seen as harmful. And maybe other books like Gossip Girl are a tad risqué, but nothing more than what the T.V show illustrates to millions each week. Because both books and media are ways to broadcast views, they should be given the same freedoms of expression.

religion...just well-known legends involving spells and mythical creatures. However, there are some prospective banned books that have legitimate reasons for people to shy away from them.

Cecily von Ziegesar's Gossip Girl, for example, quickly became very popular. People are drawn in by the scandals and sex within the series. A television show developed from the books, and could be considered even more inappropriate than the books by graphically portraying the series.

Even though the show is running smoothly with very high ratings, the books have been given a much worse rep than the T.V series. I don't see why people are so eager to shoot down literature, but completely ignore the fact that the show contains the same level (or worse) material as the books.

People are so entranced by the media that they won't speak out against inappropriateness in fear of their beloved series being pulled off the air. Authors, however, seem to be given a much more limited freedom of speech.

But it's not just T.V that's endorsing exactly what people are trying to keep out of books. Why should innocent books like Harry Potter get such a bad rep when video games out there like Call of Duty promote going out and hunting terrorists? And that game is far from

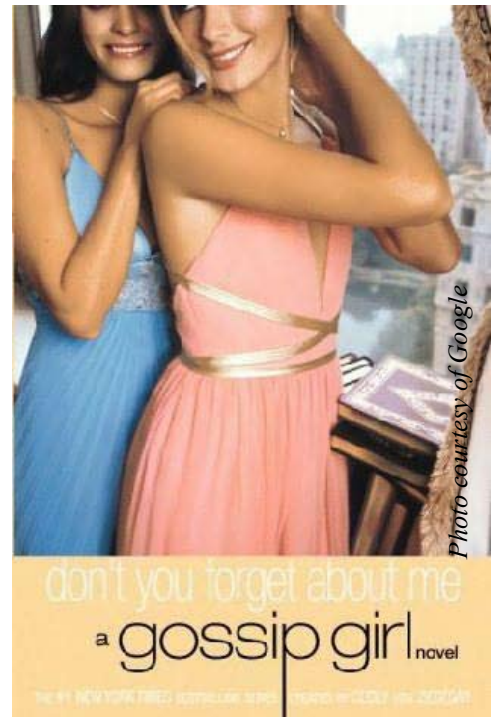


Photo courtesy of Google



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Winter Wonderland editorials

by Emily Hartl
Head Editor

Tom-Tom? What's that?

As most sophomores, juniors and seniors will remember, there was a happy point in time where the Tom-Tom was not only frequently read, but its publication was *anticipated*.

Those many months ago, the Tom-Tom Goes Green agenda was merely an idea. Every other Friday, LHS students would sit twitching at their lunch tables, waving down a faithful Tom-Tom staff member who walked up and down the cafeteria aisles, handing each eager reader the latest issue of the printed Tom-Tom.

Despite the fact that these printed issues were often mistaken for napkins or placemats at lunch, the large majority of our readership simply enjoyed spending their not-quite-a-half-hour lunch period catching up with the latest LHS news, provided by their favorite journalism students.

And then doomsday arrived. The beginning of the 2009-2010 school year initiated major changes for the beloved Tom-Tom. Clearly, if you are reading this right now, you've discovered the school's best-kept secret: the digital Tom-Tom.

But many students to whom I have spoken expressed serious contempt for the online version of their favorite local paper.

I won't lie to you, Tom-Tom readers. I don't like the Go Green Tom-Tom either.

What I do like, however, is reading the paper. I'd give almost anything to get my subscription to the Chicago Tribune back. I like being updated. I like knowing what's important enough to have a place in the paper.

In a study conducted by pewresearch.org, subjects were asked whether or not they would miss their local paper if it had to be shut down. Among those between ages 18-39, 48 percents said "not at all."

As if we aren't persecuted enough as teenagers, now there are statistics to prove that young people are relatively indifferent to news.

What we really miss is holding the paper in our hands while munching on a sandwich or sipping some Gatorade at lunch. We like walking up to our friends and pointing out hilarious pictures or intriguing quotes found in the Tom-Tom.

Let's face it: the digital Tom-Tom kills all this school paper fun.

But this is a new era. Whether you talk to the environmentalists or the technology experts of the 21st century, you will find valid reasons to stop killing trees and start doing something contemporary.

Also found in the pewresearch.org study, 41 percent of subjects said they receive their news from printed newspapers, but only 13 percent consume their information from online newspapers.

But it's almost easier to access the new Tom-Tom than it was to read the old one. The printed Tom-Tom was big and bulky and covered your hands with ink. The new Tom-Tom is a click or two away.

Imagine if you minimized Facebook for five minutes each week (what a thought!) to go to the LHS homepage and click on the latest issue of the Tom-Tom. Before you knew it, you would be consuming *real* information instead of lazily scanning the headlines on tabloids while you stand in line at Chipains.

We can't keep moaning and groaning about the absence of the old version of the Tom-Tom. Say your last few goodbyes to printed newspapers, and say hello to a newer, better initiative.



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Winter Wonderland features

When all else fails... give the gift of love.

by Orla Ruane
Features writer

It seemed as though Thanksgiving break was over just as fast as it arrived. Black Friday soon approached and eager shoppers were ready to snag those “door buster” deals. With low prices on appliances, clothes, electronics and more, there was an abundance of shoppers searching for the perfect gifts for their family, friends and significant others.

We all know the cliché about getting or receiving gifts about the holidays. Whether you like your present or not, you have to pretend to love it in the spirit of the holidays. You might as well embrace the fact that you can’t return the hideous knitted cat sweater your grandmother made you, but what about gifts from your boyfriend or girlfriend? You don’t want to look rude or picky if you ask for the receipt, so how do we prevent this awkward embarrassment?

We asked couples at LHS on what they believed to be the best gifts to get your boyfriend or girlfriend.

Sophomore Emily Heth is hoping to receive new earrings from her boyfriend this Christmas because she and her friends have been hinting at it for quite some time now. “I love earrings and I think he has finally got the hint!” said Heth. Heth describes the perfect gift to give a boyfriend or girlfriend as, “something you know they are going to get good use out of, or something funny regarding an inside joke or a first date.” Sophomore Mike Hall believes that jewelry is a guys best bet, girls tend to like shiny new things so they are more than likely to enjoy a new necklace or bracelet. English teacher Kathryn Kupcheck agrees that jewelry is a girl’s best friend, “Tiffany’s is the way to go. If a girl sees that blue bag or box, she’s going to be happy.” Sophomore Damon Aleman knows how hard it is to pick out gifts for people, so he asks for the easy ones, “I would want to keep it simple, the best gift receive for me would be cash or a gift card, a new sweatshirt or movie is always cool too”.



But making your boyfriend or girlfriend happy doesn’t always have to cost you and arm and a leg. Senior Katlyn Bermele vouches for the working teens by saying, “I feel like there is so much competitiveness when it comes to picking out gifts for boyfriends or girlfriends. But honestly, as long as it comes from the heart, it’s a perfect gift for me. There is no need for anyone to go out and spend tons of money on a present that isn’t even all that great. Sure it’s nice to get expensive things sometimes, but in the long run, it’s the little things that mean the most”.

So struggling teens, if you don’t have the money to meet Tiffany’s cost, or enough money to get a new Hollister hoodie for your hottie, go for the simple or funny gifts, those types of presents always seem to have the most meaning.

Photo courtesy of Google.com



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Winter Wonderland features

Christmas Day Premieres

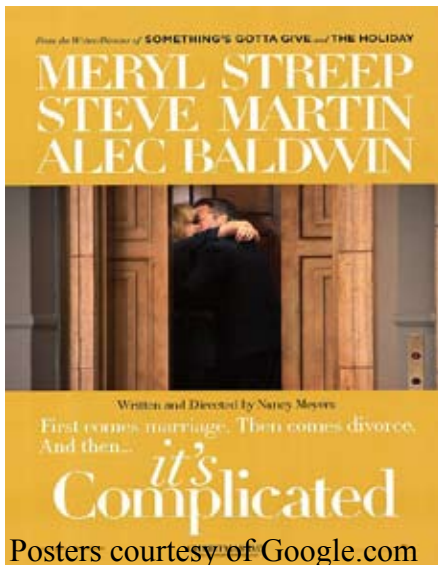
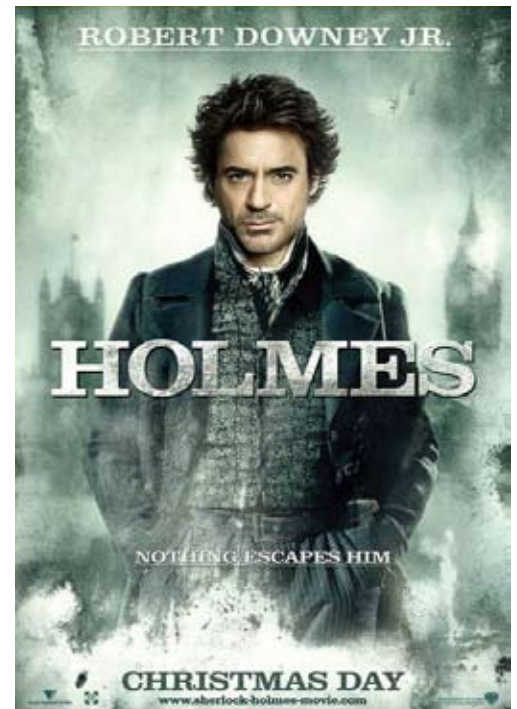


by Miranda Garcia
Features writer

Christmas is not far away and what better way to spend the day than a family outing to the movies? It is the biggest day in movie business. The newest movies that will be out are *Its Complicated* and *Sherlock Holmes*, to name a few. *Its Complicated* is a romantic comedy with a divorce and an all-star cast including Meryl Streep, Steve Martin, Alec Baldwin, John Krasinski and Lake Bell.

Here's the plot: Jane is the mother of three grown kids, owns a thriving Santa Barbara bakery/restaurant and has, after a decade of divorce, an amicable relationship with her ex-husband, an attorney named Jake.

But when Jane and Jake find themselves out of town for their son's college graduation, things start to get complicated. An innocent meal together turns into the unimaginable—an affair. With Jake remarried to the much younger Agness, Jane is now “the other woman.”



Caught in the middle of their renewed romance is Adam

(Martin), an architect hired to remodel Jane's kitchen. Healing from his divorce, Adam starts to fall for Jane, but soon realizes he has become part of a love triangle.

Sherlock Holmes is another must-see movie for the whole family. It is rated PG but it's full of action. This movie stars Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, Rachel McAdams, Mark Strong, Kelly Reilly and Eddie Marsan.

In this movie Sherlock reveals awesome fighting skills as lethal as his legendary intellect. Holmes will battle as never before to bring down a new nemesis and unravel a deadly plot that could destroy the country. For more info on this movie visit, <http://sherlock-holmes-trailer.blogspot.com>.



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Winter Wonderland features



Deck the Halls

Brittney Garcia
Features writer

When Christmas comes around it seems like Martha Stewart is putting everyone's decorations to shame. Martha has it all down, from the ornaments to cookie for Santa, and there is no reason why your decorations can't be as amazing as hers.

The first things that comes to mind when you think Christmas is a Christmas tree. Your tree can be outstanding no matter what. The place to start when putting up your tree is location; pick somewhere that your tree can be admired. It's also best to have a theme or color scheme in mind when you start decorating your tree, one that can be used in your entire house.



Photo courtesy of Google.com

You can have your theme transfer throughout your whole house with simple things like bows, candles and stockings. There is no need to go out and buy millions of decorations; you would be surprised how far a few decorations can go. No one wants to have their house to look like Christmas exploded all over the place.

Try to avoid things when you're decorating. Santa figures are cute but don't take "He sees you when you're sleeping, knows when you're awake" too seriously. Figures are adorable like snowmen and nutcrackers but only in moderation.

Outside is always the place to show off your Christmas cheer but it can get tacky quickly.

Avoid putting tons of those blowup decorations on your lawn. Your house will look crowded in the winter and once the snow melts you might end up with dry grass.

Houses can get distracting when they have a lot of decorations. Lights are pretty in the winter buy they can also be blinding. When you put up lights go for the tree and bushes. If you have lights on your house already then there is no reason to add onto them.

Take a few minutes to play in the snow and build yourself a snow family; they are always a good addition to any outside decoration.

Holidays are always the time to spread cheer. Send the message out with some wonderful decorations around your entire home.





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Winter Wonderland **features**

Top Eleven **Funner**

by Annie Fox
Features writer



Things to Do in the Winter

With winter in full swing, weekends can be a drag. Sure, you can spend your nights in someone's basement watching holiday movies you've already seen 100 times or you can hit the town, find something fun to do! Need some ideas? I've got you covered with FUN ideas for winter that won't break the bank.

1. **Winter Wonder Fest at Navy Pier-** Navy Pier is hosting Winter Wonder Fest from Dec. 4 until Jan. 3. Make a day of it! Grab some friends and hit Navy Pier to join in on the fun. Take a train to save your cash, a brisk walk will save you the money for expensive parking. Sound like something you might be interested in? Head over to www.winterwonderfest.com for more details.
2. **Ashbary Coffee House-** This hip coffeehouse is the perfect place to spend a cozy night enjoying the company of your friends and good coffee. All month long Ashbary's has something to offer including open mic nights every Wed. for you aspiring musicians. If you're looking for a good laugh, swing by on Dec. 11 or Dec. 26. for "Hot Cup of Comedy". For more info, head to <http://www.ashbary.com/>.
3. **Go ice skating in Millennium Park-** Hop on a train to Chicago and make the trek to Millennium Park with your friends. You can rent skates and it won't cost you much. After that you can head over to The Bean, have a photo shoot with your friends and enjoy the chaos of The Windy City in the winter.
4. **New Year's Eve Fireworks at Buckingham Fountain-** Don't have plans this New Years Eve? Problem solved. Grab some friends and maybe a blanket, dress warm and enjoy the beautiful fireworks display and light show at the scenic Buckingham Fountain.
5. **Midnight Madness-** Didn't get enough shopping insanity on black Friday? For some hometown fun get downtown Lemont Dec. 18 from six pm to midnight. The village's website promises fun, stating "We have a great line-up of outside vendors including antiques, unique apparel and accessories, designer and home-made jewelry and a variety of holiday crafts."
6. **The Lemont Park District Fitness and Aquatic Complex Grand Opening-** Dec. 19 the Lemont Park District is opening the new facilities we've all been waiting for. Come see the new building and take advantage of the free open gym, open swim, fitness facility and free weights. The fun starts at 10 am and continues all day until 10 pm. It should be fun, it's free and you can come visit me at work!
7. **Building ginger bread houses-** This old school tradition could make for a sweet day with your significant other or a messy treat with your friends. It could even be a fun way to spend some quality time with your family. So gather your materials and treat yourself!

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8. **Christmas shopping on the Magnificent Mile-** If you have some Christmas shopping left, bundle up and hit the city. You can gather your cash, your list and explore the stores on the Mag Mile. No matter who you're buying for, you'll find the perfect gift.
9. **Have a romantic dinner at Macy's?** - Yes, Macy's. The 45 ft. tree complete with 10,000 lights and 1,200 ornaments. You and your sweetheart can have a romantic dinner by the lights and get in the holiday spirit and maybe do a little shopping.
10. **Go see a holiday movie-**This December, plenty of new releases are hitting theatres near you from heartwarming and fun to action or comedy, you can find a movie you'll all enjoy. Visit <http://www.wildaboutmovies.com/movies/December-2009-Movies.php> to see the release dates of the upcoming movies.
11. **Go see a show-** Chicago is home to some of the most prestigious music venues, and bands are touring through here constantly. You can find something you're interested in, save up your nickels and dimes for a night of music and fun. To find tour dates for your local band hit up their myspace page, they'll have the information you need for buying tickets or getting to the show.

You don't have to be bored this winter, hit the town with your friends and make your own fun and before you know it, spring will be here to save you

by Melanie Bagal
Features writer

Holiday Vacation



Holiday vacations are a fun time to relax and be a very stress free person and also to spend time with family. Whether you are staying home or going somewhere, the holidays are the time to relax. Here's what some people are doing over their breaks.

"I really don't know what I am doing for my holiday vacations yet" said Vicky Villagomez (senior).

"I plan to visit my parents in Peoria and have a reunion with some old classmates and then just relax" said Mrs. Cathy Mayer, the school librarian

"I plan to just relax for a while," said Lindsay Simonetta (sophomore).

"Hang out with friends and family. Feeling that good old Christmas cheer," said John Daly (junior).

"Getting ready for Christmas finishing shopping and putting up some more decorations but... mostly just staying home for winter break. And for New Year's, just staying home and watching movies" said Rene Tovar (junior).

"I plan to go to Tennessee to see my family and a Nevershoutnever concert," said Kristen Molnar (sophomore).

"I will be baking and hoping to win lady gaga tickets and getting heartbeat headphones," said Al Lynn (junior).

"I plan just to hang out with friends and just relax for the holidays" said Adrianna Munoz (senior).

If you're not planning anything for your holidays, just stay home. Watch a movie, have some sleepovers and just go outside and watch the snow fall during the night. Spend time this holiday enjoying yourself.



Tom-Tom

Winter Wonderland SPORTS

Boys basketball: season going strong

by Emily Pellegrine
Sports Editor

With new head coach Rick Runnas the boys Varsity basketball team is looking better already. Last year their 2-24 record didn't lead them to much success, but already this year their record is 1-4, with more than 20 games go . Senior Alex Nelson states "we have better team chemistry and play better together, except we still are struggling to find ways to win and finishing games is still tough".

The boys game Dec 4 versus Oak Lawn ended with a one point loss. "The team overall played good as a whole on Friday, we all contributed to the game and played hard. What we need to improve on is free throws, that's separating us from the win and the lose" said senior Dave Podzorny. Once the team straightens out their weak points, they won't have much of a problem adding some wins onto their record. The team is made up mostly of Seniors, which will be beneficial compared to last year when the team had just one senior.

"Runnas is a great guy, we like him a lot and he has helped improve our team dramatically" stated Alex Nelson. Runnas' expectations of this team on and off the court will influence the team mentally and physically as the season progresses. Hopefully the success will carry on throughout the season as the team continues to work hard, and keeps building up there record.



Photos courtesy of Annie Fox



Tom-Tom

Winter Wonderland sports

Athlete of the week

Sarah Clancy

by Ruta Biskis
Sports writer

Statistics say that cheerleading is known to be one of the most dangerous sports because of its high injury rate. Think about it, what other sport do you have to tumble, scream, jump, and dance in? Probably none. The Lemont Varsity cheerleading team has accomplished so much throughout the past years, including winning the state title last season. The hard work they put in every day at practice shines through at competitions and sporting events. Not only do people enjoy watching them perform, but they're also motivating to the players. Senior Sarah Clancy has informed the Tom Tom about her cheerleading experience here at Lemont.

Tom Tom: How is your year so far?

Sarah Clancy: The year so far has been really good

TT: Is it fun or is it challenging?

SC: It has been a lot of fun but yet we still challenge ourselves to be the best.

TT: What is your signature?

SC: I have many, but probably my jumps

TT: Are your practices time consuming?

SC: Yes, we have practice every day except Sundays

TT: Do you like your coach?

SC: She has her moments! No I'm kidding she's cool.

TT: Have you ever been injured during a performance?

SC: Yes, I strained my knee doing flips once.

TT: Do you think cheerleading is dangerous?

SC: Very [dangerous]! [Most of the danger comes] from doing flips to throwing girls up in the air. You have to be very careful with everything you do.

TT: How old were you when you started cheerleading?

SC: I was 8 years old., at Lemont Hornets.



Photos courtesy of Tony Hamilton

Even though cheerleading is known to be one of the most dangerous sports, girls still participate and love every minute of it. This team has come a long way and will continue to work hard to become back to back state champions.

